IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a view finder for displaying [a plurality of the image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of] the stored images, a navigation control button for [positioning a highlight area around] <u>selecting</u> one of the [plurality of image cells]<u> stored images</u>, and one or more function keys, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to [the] <u>a</u> user pressing the assigned mark function key, the image [cell] currently [highlighted] <u>selected</u> is marked to provide a marked image;

(b)   repeating step (a) to create a <u>temporary</u> group of marked images; and

(c)   assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to [a] <u>the</u> user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.

2.   A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a view function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned view function key, each of the marked images is displayed sequentially in the view finder without manual intervention.

3.   A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a save function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned save function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a folder.

4.   A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a slide show function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned slide show function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a file.

5.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a duplicate function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned duplicate function key, each of the marked images are duplicated, and if no images have been marked, then the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is duplicated.

6.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a delete function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned delete function key, each of the marked images is deleted, and if no images have been marked, then the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is deleted.

7.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 further including the step of:

(d)   assigning an unmark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned unmark function key, [the mark number is removed from] the image [cell] currently [highlighted] selected is unmarked.

8.   (Amended) A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a navigation control button, one or more function keys, and a view finder for displaying stored images [a plurality of image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of the stored images], the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   selecting [positioning a highlight on] one of the stored images [plurality of image cells] in response to a user pressing a navigation control button;

(b)   enabling [prompting] the user to mark the [highlighted] selected image [cell] using a corresponding function key;

(c)   displaying a mark indication [in the highlighted] on the selected image [cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key;

(d)   repeating steps (a) through (c) to provide a temporary group of marked images.

9.   A method as in claim 8 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1)   providing a mark number as the mark indication.

10.   (Amended) A method as in claim <u>8 further including</u> [9 wherein step (c) further includes] the steps of:

(e) [(c1)]   <u>enabling</u> [prompting] the user to select one of the functions of saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group using corresponding function keys; and

(f) [(c2)]   saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group in response to the user pressing the appropriate function keys.

11.   (Amended) A method as in claim 10 <u>further including the steps</u> [wherein step (c) further includes the step] of:

(g) [(c3)]   prompting the user to unmark the [highlighted] <u>selected</u> image [cell] using a corresponding function key; and

(h) [(c4)]   removing the mark <u>indication from the selected image</u> [number in the highlighted image cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

12.   (Amended) A method as in claim 11 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

(a1)   prompting the user to duplicate the [highlighted] <u>selected</u> image [cell] using a corresponding function key; and

(a2)   duplicating the [highlighted] <u>selected</u> image [cell] in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

13.   A digital camera device comprising:

a memory device coupled to said digital camera device for storing sets of image data;

a memory manager for allocating storage locations within said memory device to store said sets of image data;

an interface coupled to said memory device whereby an external host computer can access said sets of image data stored in said memory device;

a user interface for displaying a plurality of <u>images</u> [image cells] corresponding to the image data, the user interface including a plurality of function <u>keys</u> [buttons], and [means527highlight] <u>means to select one of</u> the plurality of <u>images</u> [image cells];

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned mark function key, <u>the selected image is marked,</u> [a mark number is displayed in the highlighted image cell] such that in response to the user repeatedly <u>selecting</u> [highlighting] images [cells] and pressing the assigned mark function key, a <u>temporary</u> group of marked images is created; and

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.